



# Model United Nations

Hangzhou International School

# The UN, a forum for discussing ideals.

- Right after the destruction witnessed in World War II , the world agreed on a basic set of human rights.
- In 1948, the General Assembly passed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (The declaration turned 60 years old last year!)
- In the 1960s, some countries signed additional covenants which expand the basic ideas of human rights. (Covenants are laws.)

## ■ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The idea of human rights did not begin with the establishment of the United Nations - its roots can be found in all world cultures and religions. However, the adoption of the Universal Declaration by the UN General Assembly in 1948 was a landmark achievement in world history as it was the first time that the international community set down formal standards of human rights and freedoms that should be enjoyed by everyone, everywhere. The Universal Declaration proclaims that respect for human rights "is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world". Since agreeing on the Universal Declaration, the international community has pursued what is a continuing task, to make the Declaration's ideals effective.

The Universal Declaration is now available in over three hundred languages, which makes it the most translated document in the world.

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*Eleanor Roosevelt led and chaired the commission that developed the historic Universal Declaration of Human Rights.*



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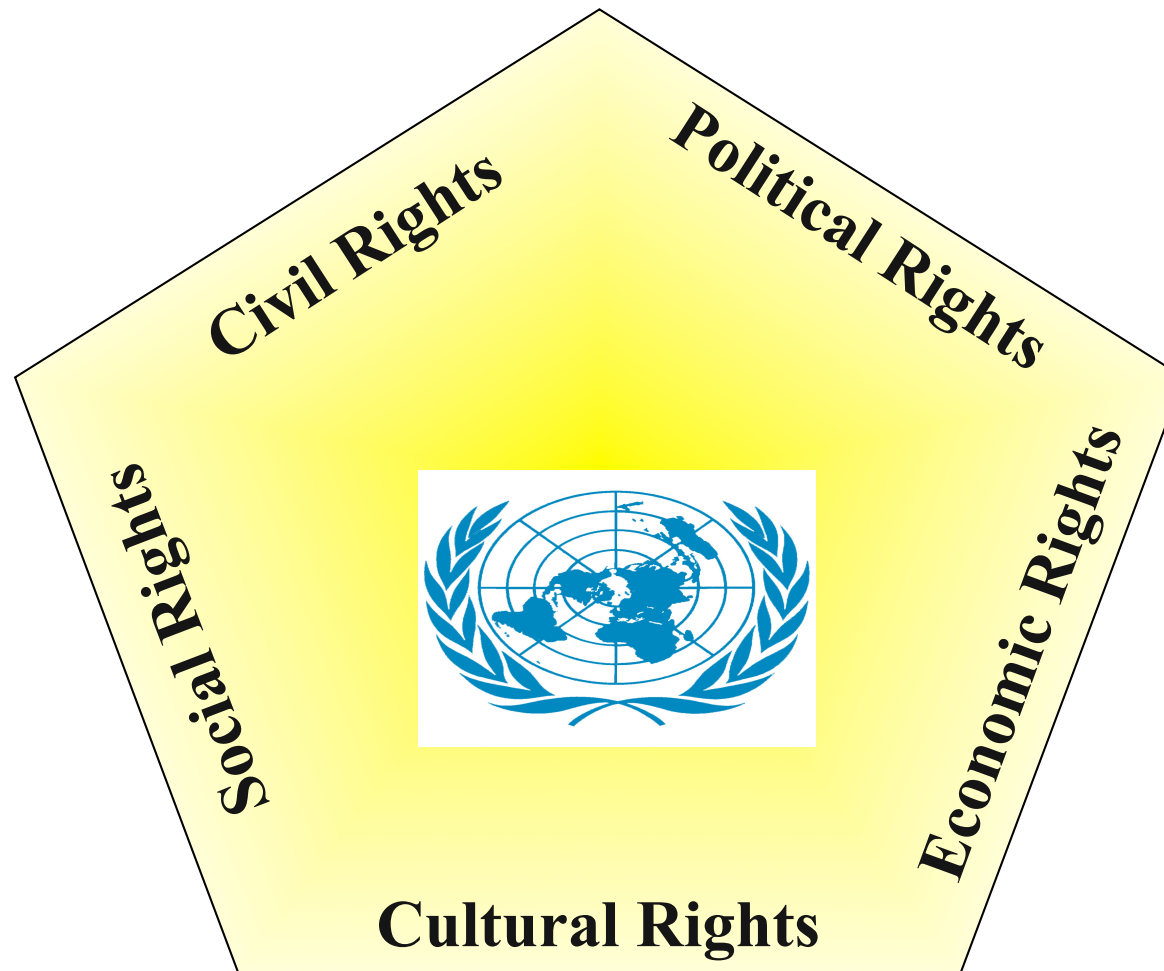
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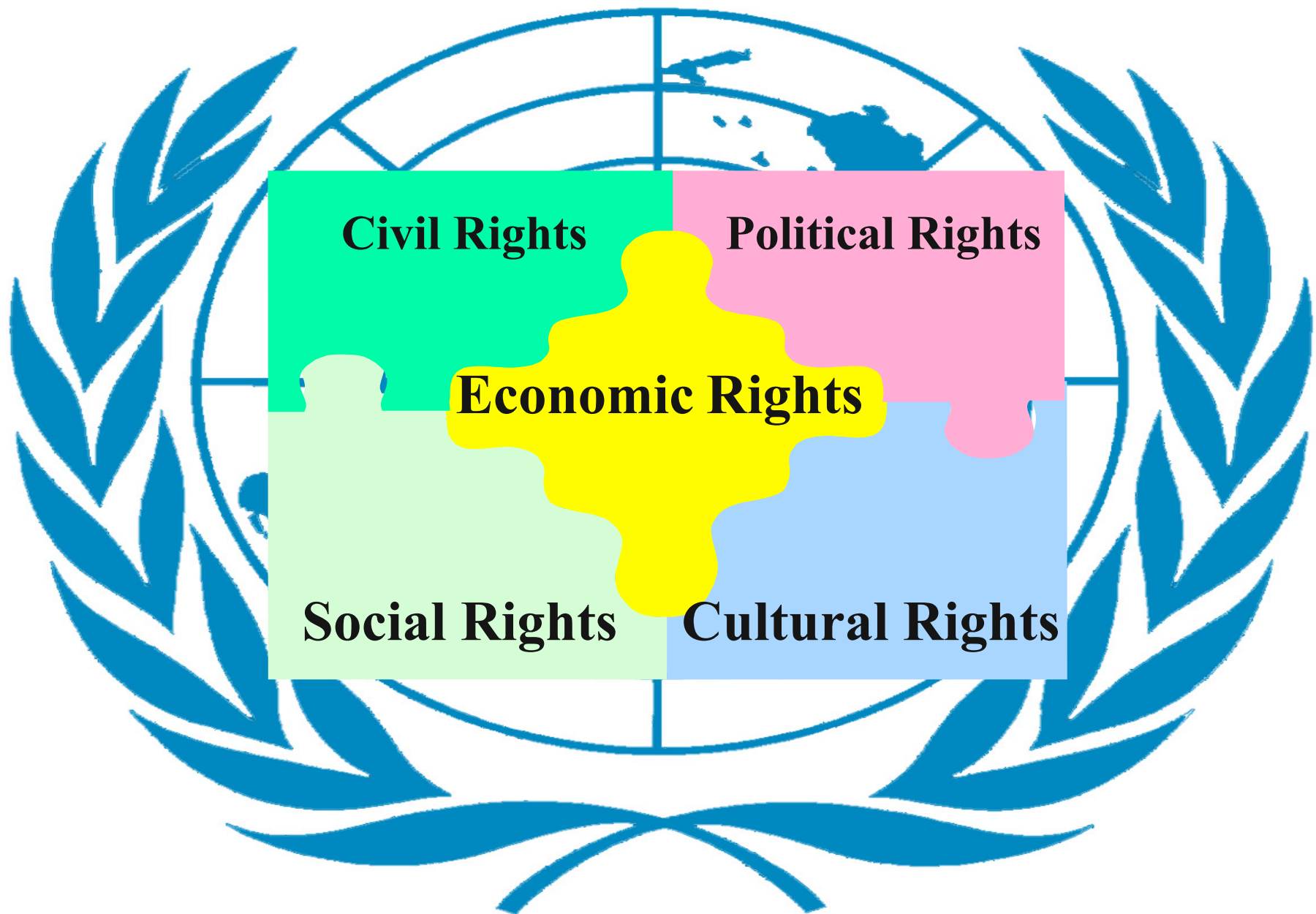
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- Freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
- Freedom of expression and opinion.

# Five Types of Human Rights





**Civil Rights**

**Political Rights**

**Economic Rights**

**Social Rights**

**Cultural Rights**

# Civil and Political Rights



Civil rights deal with standards of judiciary and penal systems.

Political rights deal with specific components of participation in political power.

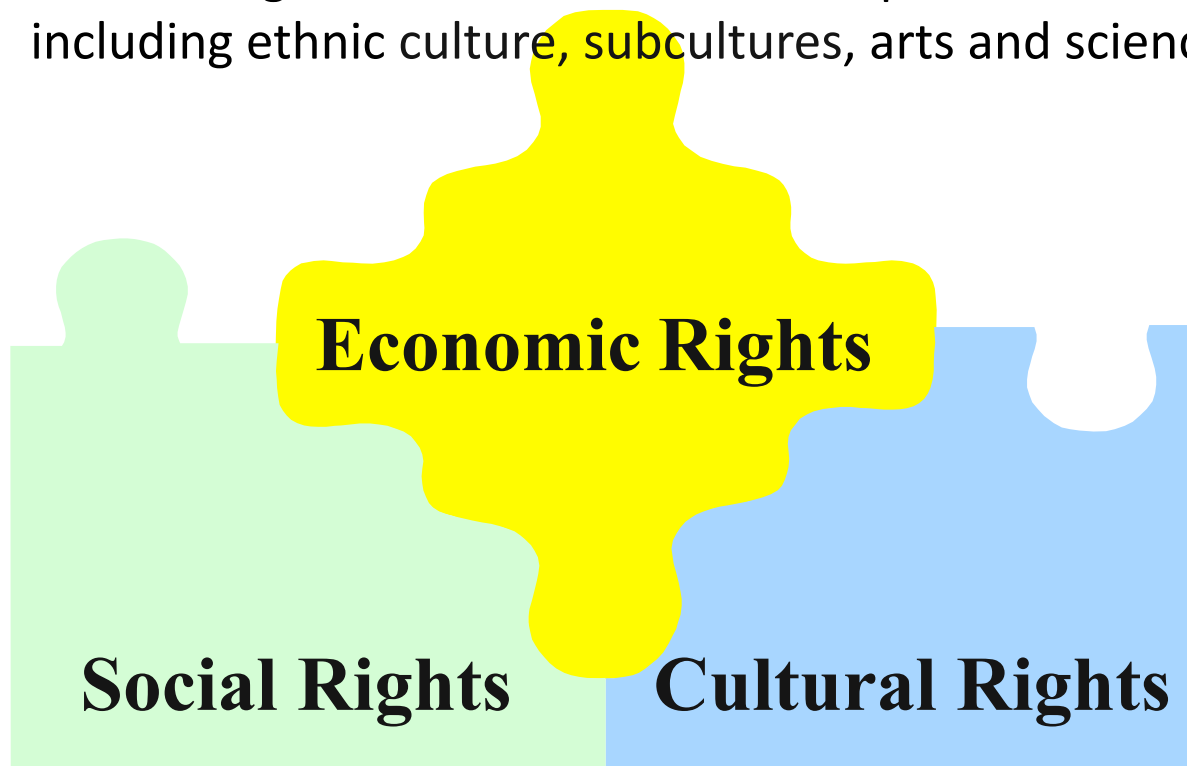
These rights are often focused on when one talks about human rights.

# ESCR - The neglected half of Human Rights

Economic Rights deal with the sphere of human beings working, producing and servicing.

Social Rights deal with standard of living and quality of life for all persons, including those not participating in economic activities.

Cultural Rights deal with the cultural sphere of life including ethnic culture, subcultures, arts and science.



# Basic Documents on Human Rights

1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1966 International Covenants on Human Rights

International Covenant on CPR

International Covenant on ESCR

a) Specific topics: Torture, Racial discrimination

b) Specific victim groups: Gender, Children

General Comments & Recommendations by all treaty bodies including:

General Comment 12, 1999

General Comment 15 on drinking water, 2002

# Learn about the Universal Declaration online!

- A site dedicated to the declaration.  
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>
- The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
[http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/  
WelcomePage.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx)